

amendment would take effect?

SENATOR HALL: That is correct, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I believe that would be just and equitable. And if, as one of Senator Hefner's main arguments was, if it was true that it would be of benefit to the agency over there in knowing what the Legislature has done, I can't see any reason to resist this amendment, and I do support it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I'm going to oppose this amendment because I feel it is sort of a reconsideration of what we just voted on. We voted to delay the implementation of this bill until January 1, 1988, and each year thereafter it would become effective January 1 in each year. The reason I offered this amendment is because I felt that the Department of Labor could administer this program a little better. They wouldn't have to anticipate what the Legislature is doing. So, at this time, I would just urge you to oppose this amendment and go ahead and advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, your light is on. Do you wish this to be your closing or not?

SENATOR HALL: That is fine if no one else is eager to speak.

PRESIDENT: All right, this will be your closing then.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, this is by no way a reconsideration of the vote that was just taken. It leaves in effect the issue or the substance of the Hefner amendment, that after January 1, 1988, we do direct the Department of Labor to determine increases based on a January 1 effective date of a year specific, but not for the four months of the remainder of this year. So this bill, when it would be signed by the Governor and passed, would take effect this year, 90 days after the session, a September 1, approximately, effective date. With that, we would then allow those individuals who would be eligible this year to receive that increase. From here on out, from here on out any increase would then take effect January 1. To me it is a very fair amendment. It is very fair to say, Senator Hefner, your idea has been accepted by the body. The principle of the issue that you addressed to the body, that January 1 would make it a little easier for the Department of